

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

RECEIVED

FEB 2 7 2023

SD Secretary of State

MARTY J. JACKLEY ATTORNEY GENERAL 1302 East Highway 14, Suite 1 Pierre, South Dakota 57501-8501 Phone (605) 773-3215 Fax (605) 773-4106 http://atg.sd.gov

MARK W. BARNETT CHIEF DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 27, 2023

Honorable Monae L. Johnson Secretary of State 500 E. Capitol Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Attorney General's Statement (Constitutional Amendment Prohibiting Taxes on Anything Sold for Human Consumption)

Dear Secretary Johnson,

Enclosed is a copy of a proposed constitutional amendment, in final form, that the sponsor submitted to this Office. In accordance with state law, I hereby file the enclosed Attorney General's Statement for this constitutional amendment.

By copy of this letter, I am providing a copy of the proposed Statement to the sponsor.

Very truly yours,

Marty J. Jackley ATTORNEY GENERAL

MJJ/dd Enc. Filed this $\frac{27^{4}}{}$ day of

(order of formson

SECRETARY OF STATE

cc/encl: Richard P. Weiland

Reed Holwegner - Legislative Research Council

RECEIVED

FEB 27 2023

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S STATEMENT

SD Secretary of State

<u>Title</u>: An Initiated Amendment Prohibiting Taxes on Anything Sold for Human Consumption.

Explanation:

Currently, the State collects tax on the sale or use of certain goods, including foods and drinks. Many municipalities also collect these taxes.

This initiated amendment overrides existing laws and prohibits the State from collecting sales or use tax on anything sold for human consumption. The amendment eliminates these sources of revenue for the State.

Human consumption is not defined by state law. However, its common definition includes more than foods and drinks.

The amendment does not prohibit the collection of sales or use tax on alcoholic beverages or prepared food. Prepared food is defined by law to include food that is sold heated or with utensils.

The amendment may affect the State's obligations under the tobacco master settlement agreement and the streamlined sales tax agreement. The master settlement agreement resulted from multi-state lawsuits against cigarette manufacturers for the public health effects of smoking. South Dakota's annual share of the master settlement agreement is approximately \$20 million. The streamlined sales tax agreement is a multistate program designed to simplify the collection of sales and use tax for companies selling in multiple jurisdictions.

Judicial clarification of the amendment will be necessary. The Legislature cannot alter the provisions of a constitutional amendment.

SECRETARY OF STATE